Dear Harry, 10/15/88

I'm sorry that getting beaten up was added to your other troubles. Hope by this time you've recovered fully. And that the good news with which you close your letter was really good news.

I did not know that you deal with what the stupid editor did not believe, that JFK had ordered the liquidation of our adventure in Vietnam. There was a time when I planned a book on the Kennedy presidency and I'd completed my research. I'd planned to go into that, among other things. Gave some of the research to Howard Roffman and he returned some of that. I'd have trouble fining it after all these years. But on this point I do remember two things: A few days before the assassination the Pentagon issued a press release that took up about a stick of type in the Wx Post. It said they'd examined their program or training or operation and found that they could begin to withdraw our "advisers." One planeload was back when JFKwas killed. A couple of days later the Pentagon issued another. It said that it had re-evaluated their re-evaluation and decided it was too optimistic. The rest is histroy.

I also interviewed General James Gavin on this. He confirmed it to me. I do recall some of what he said and I've the whole thing on tape. Which I'd have trouble not finding but locating on a series of seven-inch reels.

I completed my research on this 21 years ago! The book was tentatively titled "Tiger to Ride," with the subtitle "The Untold Story of the Cuba Missle Crisis." Omitting the "n" is not a typo and, alas, the story is still untold.

I had two bad experiences with S &S but in my case I can't blame them and there was a time the editor I dealt with did try to help me. Then S & S had published a fraudulent book, "Calories Don't Count" and the then top guy, Shimkin, regarded my Whitewash as the red flag before the charging bull of the DJ. He was correct and he did avoid getting indicted. They did like the book and predicted it would be "another 'Green Felt Jungle,'" their best-seller of the year before. Through their Pocket Books they distributed for Parallax, which published Oswald in New Orleans. When they refused to distribute it there was no distribution. Samerreason, although they then gave none.

Robert, I regret to say, does zany things without realizing what he is doing. One of the past just cameback to haunt me two weeks ago and I'm sure he's oblivious. And was then.

You refer to what happened at the Frankfurt book fair. Reminds me of a sad German experience I had. A dear friend took the ms to Fischer AG, then the biggest publisher there. The person he gave it to liked the book and wrote me several times saying they wanted to publish. Never got any answer because I never got their letters. She then mailed the ms back and I never got that, either. (The FBI was then intercepting mail for the CIA.) I learned this much later, at another book show.

Being strung out for months is not unusual. Norton was sitting on it after longer than that when I published myself.

Your guy must have been ignorant of JFK's foreign policy because he had two distinctly different foreign policies. The change came or got sharp 10/62.

Your experience with the guy in Dallas who kept a pistol on the table is also a reminder. I had a young woman informer who was a narcfink. One night she had a dagger hidden in a boot and a derringer in her bra. Didn't use either, tho. At that time Garrison and all his detectives were worried about me because I was the house guest of a woman whose son had escaped from the assylum to kill Garrison and tried to do her in. Best accomodations I ever had in N.O., too. Her old place had a slave quarters she remodled and air conditioned. That's what she let me have.

I didn't get any special threat in San Fransisco, where you did. But there

wa a threat against the TV station, Kaiser's, on which I was to do half of a show, the other half by the then first black mayor, Hatcher. He did not show and I did the whole thing. No bombs. On an earlier trip there a young man I later learned from it was an FBI symbol informer tried to ruin me. They'd apparently prepared him. The moderator wanted to cut him off, he on phone, and I refused, letting him go ahead. By the time I finished with him there was great excitement and my second book sold out there the very next day. Not the first time this backfired on the FBI. They tried the same thing with the first one in New York and did me the same favor. Only then it was harder: I was less experienced and they had four erudite lawyers in that audience to tear me up. The book then went crazy! I shipped to some distributors as many as three times in a single week.

It is not easy to deal with publishers, about whom from my own experiences I can say little that is good. After a year you should be well aware of this. There usually isn't much you can do about it besides hope and not give up and not be intimidated at the same time. My experience was that if you ignore them they finally give up. Of course, I wasn't beaten up, which made ignoring easier.

Anxiety is not easy to control, particularly when there is justification. I think that persevering is the best means of coping with it. Not giving up.

Maybe it will all work out yet.

Best wishes,

Harold